

REMARKS

Status

Claims 1-7, 11-18 and 27-31 will be pending in this application upon entry of the present amendments. Support for the present amendments is inherent in the specification. No new matter will be added upon entry of the present amendments.

Discussion

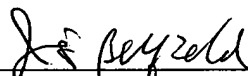
The rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, has been obviated by appropriate amendment. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

The rejection of 7-10 and 15-26 has been obviated in part by appropriate amendment and is respectfully traversed in part. Applicants respectfully submit 23 references that show that MMP's and/or TNF are involved in the disease pathways of glaucoma, alcoholism, cachexia, anorexia, acute infection, periodontitis, multiple sclerosis, fever, solid tumor growth, tumor invasion by secondary metastases, cardiovascular effects, hemorrhage, coagulation, acute phase response, and autoimmune diseases (please see the attached reference list). Claims have been amended accordingly in view of the references. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification of such action is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner has any questions or believes further discussion will aid examination and advance prosecution of the application, a telephone call to the undersigned is invited.

Date: March 19, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



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